



# Iowa School for the Deaf Programs

**Academics** ■ Students complete the same core curriculum as their hearing peers to meet graduation requirements. Vocabulary development and language comprehension are critical components of every class. Specialized reading programs (Fairview, KC Strategies, Accelerated Reader in the classroom and Visual Phonics in speech therapy) are used to build and expand language. Small classes encourage participation and enable teachers to monitor progress daily.



are a 24-hour language immersion experience. Libraries, study labs, group/individual tutoring sessions and communication with faculty keep students on academic track. The after-school student enrichment program teaches life skills, self-advocacy and knowledge of the community through hands-on activities such as cooking, field trips, volunteering or hosting guest speakers.

**Health** ■ Twenty-four hour care is provided by registered nurses. When boarding students require medical and dental visits, a licensed interpreter, who is an ISD health center employee, accompanies the student to local appointments. Audiology is provided on campus via Green Hills Area Education Agency.

**Faculty/Staff** ■ All ISD teachers are licensed in Iowa. Most hold a master's degree in deaf education or special certification in deaf education as well as in their subject area. Teachers may be deaf, hard of hearing or hearing.

**Preschool** ■ Children as young as 18 months attend preschool, usually for a shortened school day or week, and return to their homes each afternoon. ISD's preschool aligns with national preschool standards. The teacher is dually certified in regular early childhood education and early childhood education for the deaf and hard of hearing.



## Mainstreaming & Reverse Mainstreaming ■

Some students have mainstream classes written into the Individualized Education Plan. ISD educational interpreters accompany ISD students to Lewis Central Schools, where they enroll into courses not offered on campus. Hearing students at Lewis Central may enroll into careers classes, such as metals technology or woods, on the ISD campus.

**Post High School** ■ 4PLUS (Post secondary Learning for Ultimate Success) is the only post-high school college or work program specifically for deaf or hard-of-hearing post-high school students in Iowa. Students need not have attended ISD previously to enroll into this two-year program. One-on-one tutoring, job and life skills training are provided.

**Residences** ■ Surrounded by both native English and American Sign Language role models, the residences

## Athletics & Extracurriculars ■

The Bobcat teams go head-to-head against local junior varsity and private schools as well as other schools for the deaf in the Great Plains Schools for the Deaf conference. ISD athletes are regularly awarded All-City and National Deaf American honors. Current sports include football, volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track and Special Olympic events. Dances, Space Camp, academic and oratorical competitions, clubs, an annual visit to Washington D.C. are also some after school offerings.



**Giving Back** ■ At an early age, students learn the importance of giving back to their communities. They volunteer with service clubs, blood drives, local homeless shelters, American Heart Association, humane agencies, adopted highways and parks, nursing home visits, bell choir performances and other service-related activities.

